



## School Education Policy Document

Reference No. 1965

### MEMORANDUM TO PRINCIPALS

98/294 (S.239)

#### DISTRIBUTION OF POLITICAL INFORMATION TO STUDENTS AND VISITS BY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

From time to time principals receive requests to distribute letters and other political material to students. When making decisions about the distribution of such information, principals should refer to the *Controversial Issues in Schools Guidelines*. In particular principals are reminded that schools are:

- neutral grounds for rational discourse and not arenas for opposing political views
- not places for recruiting into partisan groups.

Principals are also reminded that privacy considerations prevent them from releasing personal details of students including their names and addresses.

In addition, to ensure that the exam preparation of Year 12 students is not disrupted, messages containing political information should not be distributed during the course of the Higher School Certificate examination.

Reference should also be made to the memorandum to principals, *Guidelines - Official Visitors at School Functions 88-054 (S.028)*. Visits to schools by any Member of State or Federal Parliament (apart from local members) should be arranged through the office of the Minister for Education and Training.

Should you require further information please contact your district superintendent or Gary Crawford, professional assistant to the Deputy Director-General (Operations) on telephone (02) 9561 8483.

Dr Terry Burke  
**Deputy Director-General  
Operations**  
16 September 1998